

Minutes of the Public Works Committee - November 10, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chair Manke who led the committee with the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of the Marine Corps' birthday of 230 years.

Present: Chair Richard Manke, County Board Supervisors James Behrend, Peter Gundrum, Karl Nilson, Rodell Singert, David Swan; **Absent:** James Jeskewitz

Staff Present: County Board Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legis. Associate Sandra Meisenheimer

Also Present: Public Works Director Rich Bolte, Business Mgr. Betsy Crosswaite, Senior Civil Engineer Paul Barthel, Budget Specialist Linda Witkowski, Land Resources Mgr. Perry Lindquist, Recycling Specialist Linda Wainstock, Transit Director Bob Johnson, Director of Planning & Administration of Waukesha Metro Transit Andrew Johnson

Read Correspondence/Announcements

Chair Manke addressed the following:

1. Letter from We Energies to Lee Esler, who was identified as a Public Works Commissioner, regarding 2006 Planned Road Projects and Street Light Requirements for Your Community.
2. Memo from WisDOT Bureau of Transit & Local Roads, regarding 2005-2006 Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grants Program.
3. Supervisor Behrend announced that he would not be running for the State Assembly.

Approve Minutes of October 27, 2005

Motion: Swan moved, second by Singert, to approve the minutes of 10/27/05. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

Report from Executive Committee Member for Meeting of October 31, 2005

Manke reviewed items that were discussed and/or considered at the October 31st meeting.

Report by Committee Member Attending Airport Commission Meeting of November 9, 2005

The meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 160-O-077 Parking Regulation – CTH “ES”

Motion: Singert moved, second by Behrend, to approve Ordinance 160-O-077. Barthel stated that a request was received from the City of New Berlin asking for the parking regulation due to safety issues. He said people making a right turn might find a car parked in the way. Gundrum said people are parking there because the restaurant parking lot is very small. This ordinance will restrict parking on the north side of CTH ES from CTH O southwesterly to a point 350 feet southwest of the intersection of CTH O in the City of New Berlin. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 160-O-078 Establishment of Speed Zone – CTH K

Motion: Swan moved, second by Manke, to approve Ordinance 160-O-078. Barthel said there has been a long history here, and a couple of requests were received to look at the speed in the area. Barthel said he did several traffic counts/speed studies in the area to see exactly what the traffic was doing. The complaint he received said people were slowing down going westbound in the 35 mph zone but people going eastbound, who saw the 55 mph zone before getting to the Bristlecone Pine's entrance would accelerate to get to the 55 mph zone. The traffic speed study showed that 45 mph through the area was what traffic was doing. This ordinance will modify the speed limit in the Village of Hartland and the Town of Merton to 45 mph on CTH K from a point .2 miles east of its intersection with Dorn Road easterly to a point 300 feet east of its intersection with Greystone Blvd.

Nilson said he is going to support this but would not support 45 mph for the entire road because part of it is undeveloped farmland. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 160-O-079 Appropriate Additional Funds to the Central Fleet 2005 Budget for Fuel Usage

Crosswaite said this ordinance will affect the Central Fleet fueling budget. An additional \$140,000 of expenditure appropriation is being requested to offset an equal amount of interdepartmental revenue. Higher expenditures resulted from a 20% increase from budget in the average per gallon costs for fuel projected at \$2.10; \$1.75 per gallon was budgeted. Crosswaite said right now the average price for fuel is hovering around \$2.68 but this changes every day so it could be lower on any given day.

Motion: Singert moved, second by Behrend, to approve Ordinance 160-O-079. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

Status Update on Fiscal and Operating Issues of the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

Manke and Nilson gave an update. Manke stated there was a meeting on Friday. The final request for funds for 2006 is \$26,000. There is \$30,000 in the non-departmental budget. Nilson said the Commission went on a tour of the segment from Walworth to Janesville in a theatre car which is used for examining the rails.

Overview of the Retzer Addition Construction Material Recycling Project

Wainstock gave a power point on the recycling project as she answered questions from the committee. She covered the following areas: background; pilot project approval; concerns for costs; county hires WasteCap; photo of existing building-5,171 sq.ft. (learning center addition-4,622 sq.ft., planetarium-4,149 sq.ft. [school district], total size of new building-13,942 sq.ft.); early stages of deconstruction; deconstruction materials; communication challenges; and statistical results of recycling (% of total volume-43.13%; % of total weight-82.17%). Wainstock stated that it doesn't cost any more to recycle construction materials. The estimated savings on the project was \$915.98.

Status Update on Mass Transit Issues

Bob Johnson, Andrew Johnson and Betsy Crosswaite were present. Crosswaite stated because of some financial issues affecting the 2005 program, they are here today to give a 2005 update and to discuss what may or may not happen in 2006. B. Johnson talked about the current controversy that has taken over the whole program. He said it was precipitated by their request of Wisconsin Coach Lines to modify the schedule to make it more efficient. They did this back in July in order to eliminate unnecessary layover time, which is the time at the end of bus route. B. Johnson said they produced a schedule that reduced hours by about 16 vehicle hours per day and eliminated the lengthy layovers. In addition the schedule does not coordinate very well with Waukesha Metro Transit transfers so those were also corrected in the new schedule. Waukesha Coach Lines reviewed it and made several changes, but then in late October they sent a letter stating that the new schedule was totally unacceptable. The Transit Board approved the contract for Waukesha Metro to be Waukesha County's transit administrator by a 3-1 vote, and then it went to the Common Council where no action was taken. The Council wanted more information. It will go back to the Council on December 6.

Nilson said he is happy with the Transit System. Because of the level of public transportation that is being provided, there will always be complaints. As long as it is working and we know there are going to be "x" amount of complaints, why rock the boat? Singert said the goal in the next 3-4 weeks

should be a goal of education and support for a manager who has made some hard decisions that have come with a lot of effort working with another contractor in the system. We need to educate the Council before December 6 so they will support the contract. Behrend said the burden of this should not be on the Council's back.

A.Johnson said they were asked to prepare a scenario as to what it would cost a rider to survive if no changes were made to the schedules or service. The fare came to \$5.25. A fare increase is definitely on the table and something to be looked at, but there is a bigger issue here. Essentially we're talking about the county getting out of the transit business, but the county is still putting \$3/4 million into it and paying us to run it for you. All the while there has been another big issue brewing which is the deficit. There is a deficit in 2005, which has occurred partially because the State halfway through the year decided they wouldn't fund to the same level as at the beginning of the year. The other reason is not being able to get the schedules changed halfway through the year. For 2006 there will be a deficit of \$88,600 on the county levy if things are done the way Coach Lines wants it. A.Johnson said if it were done the way he and Bob Johnson want to do it (make changes to Coach Lines' routes, revise the revenue for the amount of the fare increase, and the extra ridership as a result of gas prices), there would be a \$14,000 surplus on the county levy without touching anything else. A.Johnson said they're doing everything they can to ensure that the taxpayers in the county are given the best deal for the money that is being put into it.

Manke asked are we short of money in 2005? Crosswaite said yes but the deficit is not just because of the Wisconsin Coach Lines issue. It is also the result of state and federal funding for revenue being cut from 60% to 58.85% in May of this year. They are estimating a deficit of about \$125,000 in 2005 and will fund it with general fund savings within the Public Works Department. Discussion by the committee continued at length. B.Johnson said the first priority is for this contract to be ratified by the City. If it isn't, everything else is mute.

Esler said he is hearing that there is a committee consensus for an agenda item for the December 1 meeting as follows: "Consider endorsement of support for continuation of administration of Waukesha County Transit System by Waukesha Metro." The committee agreed. Manke asked Crosswaite to take this message back to Administration. Esler asked does the Transit Board have to forward their decision to the Common Council? B.Johnson said yes; they are an advisory body.

Esler said you mentioned a \$125,000 shortfall. Crosswaite said it is the shortfall in the expenditure level that is being put in the budget to pay the remainder of the bills. Esler said our levy contribution toward total costs is about 27-28%, which means that the maximum dollar shortfall is closer to a half million dollars this year. Crosswaite said no, it is the levy because revenues do not go through the budget. A.Johnson said the expense changes that they talked about would make up for the revenue shortfalls.

Motion to adjourn: Nilson moved, second by Singert, to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodell L. Singert
Secretary

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